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First ditch effort for Earth

Area residents Angela Pilgrim, left, with her daughter Rylan, five, pick up litter on the side of Highway 35, south of Minden on Thursday, April 22. Although the Pilgrims were out like others to recognize Earth Day, the mother and daughter team are regular volunteers, who pick up trash when they can in the neighbourhood. Pilgrim, who is a teacher at Archie Stouffer Elementary School where her daughter is a kindergarten student, said the school encouraged students to not just pick up trash where they lived, but think about the harm garbage poses to the environment. See more Earth Day photos on page 5. /DARREN LUM Staff

Mass vaccination clinics close temporarily

by SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference held virtually on April 21 with medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking.

In the upcoming weeks, there will be fewer

mass vaccination clinics in the HKPRD area due to challenges with vaccine supply, and prioritization of mobile teams in reaching congregate care settings that the health unit has not yet been able to reach – and sometimes clinics will be prioritized over mobile teams while the health unit deals with a low supply of vaccine.

“We’re still in an era of vaccine shortage,” said Bocking. “And a lot of the challenges or struggles or frustrations that people are experiencing related to access to COVID-19 vaccines are rooted just in the fact that Ontario is not receiving enough supply, Canada is not receiving enough supply and so in HKPR we’re not receiving the supply that we’d like to see to meet the demand.”

“Of the vaccine supply we do have, we need to be able to reach some of the priority populations that were identified throughout the provincial framework guiding the vaccination roll-out,” she said.

The Lindsay Exhibition (LEX) clinic will still be open this week, as well as follow-up clinics in retirement homes, group home settings, congregate care settings and community-based clinics for the highest risk population.

“Over the next couple of weeks, there will be fewer appointments in those mass immunization clinics because we have less supply overall,” said Bocking, who noted that ship-

see INCREASED page 2



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1.5 acre Lot

Increased vaccine supply expected in May

from page 1

ments of increased supply of vaccines are expected to arrive in May. "I'm quite hopeful that that will enable us to really operate all of the mass immunization clinics at their full capacity which they haven't been to this point, because there hasn't been the vaccine supply."

Bocking thanked volunteers for their work in helping to make clinics possible.

51,000 HKPR residents have received at least one shot of vaccine

Of the April 19 vaccination number update, 41,156 doses of COVID-19 vaccine had been administered across HKPR jurisdiction, and 51,000 residents of the HKPR region have received a vaccine – the number being higher as some people who live in the area received a vaccine outside of the jurisdiction – equating to about 27 per cent of the health unit's population having received at least one dose, consistent with the provincial proportion according to Bocking.

"So I think we are on the right track," she said.

Within Haliburton County, vaccination clinics have been taking place at the S.G. Nesbitt arena in Minden and A.J. LaRue arena in Haliburton since earlier this month using the province's three-phased vaccination priority plan and phone or online appointment booking system. Currently appointments are available for those born in 1961 or earlier, or to those eligible for vaccination for reasons other than age. Visit <http://www.ontario.ca/bookvaccine> or phone 1-888-999-6488 to book an appointment.

Recently vaccinations have been made available in three pharmacies in Haliburton – Rexall, Shopper's Drug Mart and DRUGSTORE Pharmacy in Todd's Independent – some by appointment and some by walk-in. Visit <https://www.hkpr.on.ca/2021/03/26/vaccination-clinics/> for more information.

The Haliburton Family Medical Centre, which helped vaccinate community elders prior to the mass vaccination clinics opening, is also offering AstraZeneca immunization clinics for people born in 1981 or earlier on April 23, 29 and 30 with additional dates to be announced. Patients of the Haliburton Family Medical Centre are asked to call 705-457-1212 to book an appointment.

Vaccination of people who are homebound, a collaboration with the Local Health Integration Network and paramedic services, is expected to start soon.



The vaccination hub at the Minden arena, seen here under construction earlier this month, will close temporarily amid an interruption in vaccine supply.

/DARREN LUM Staff

Region would be in red zone if not for lockdown

Bocking said last week that 291 new cases had been confirmed in the last 14 days, noting it's "a fairly significant increase from what we had been seeing more recently in the pandemic." The region's test positivity rate has also increased and has hovered just over three per cent, as have test positivity rates across the province, some regions with an average of

higher than 10 per cent. On average the health unit is seeing about 20 new confirmed cases a day.

"I think it's too soon to say that this is going to be the new standard," said Bocking. "There's still the possibility that the numbers will go up further or hopefully as the public health measures that are currently in place are kicking in we will see those numbers decrease."

The crude rate of infection over the past seven days is one of the indicators that determines which colour zone a region falls into under the provincial government's COVID-19 response framework, which is currently paused as the province is on lockdown.

"Over the last [week], our crude rate per 100,000 people has ranged between 65 and 88 or 89 per 100,000," said Bocking. "If we weren't in a provincial shutdown, that would put us in the red zone."

Prior to the most recent declaration of emergency and province-wide stay-at-home order, which began April 8 with public health measures further enhanced beginning April 17, the HKPR region was declared a 'yellow' zone.

"Between then and now, that increase in cases would have put us into the red zone," said Bocking.

Thirty per cent of the most recent cases discussed in the press conference have been confirmed in people under the age of 20, compared to the earlier days of the pandemic when the majority of cases were confirmed among the older population, which Bocking said might be because more of the high-risk and older population has been able to be vaccinated, or also that the variants of concern have been reported to cause infections in the younger population – not necessarily children, she said.

The majority of cases being traced are reported to have spread through community transmission – not necessarily through a specific workplace or setting – including quite a few that couldn't be connected to a particular case, which reflects further community transmission.

Variants of concern increasing

Of the cases the health unit has been notified of in the past two weeks, approximately 13 to 14 per cent of those have been identified as variants of concern, while in the province that number has plateaued at 69 per cent.

"We are not seeing in our region the same proportion of variants of concern, but we are seeing it," said Bocking, adding there is a delay in reporting if a sample has the mutation consistent with a variant of concern so numbers will continue to change.

At press time, 17 cases have been identified in Haliburton County as variants of concern; a total of 339 in the region – at the beginning of March, 14 had been identified in the entire HKPR region.

Variants of concern are more transmissible than the original virus, and can amplify cases because of the ease in which they spread. Positive cases of COVID-19 are initially screened in the laboratory process to determine if they are variants of concern, but a full genome sequence is required to determine which variant is identified, which takes about one to two weeks and is not done on every sample due to capacity issues at the lab, according to Bocking.

To date, the majority of variants identified in the health unit's region have been the one first identified in the United Kingdom.

Poling named OCNA Columnist of the Year

Minden Times columnist Jim Poling Sr. was honoured as the Ontario Community Newspaper Association's Columnist of the Year at the association's 2020 Better Newspaper Competition, which took place virtually, on April 23.

"Excellent selection of columns that make a reader think deeply," judges said of Poling's work. "Well written, with elegant prose. A pleasure to read."

Sue Tiffin took second place in the education writing category for a story about families making back-to-school choices amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Chad Ingram placed third for best news story, for a story about a police shooting stem-

ming from an altercation at the Minden Valu-Mart last July, where a man refused to put on a face mask and then assaulted an employee.

Sister publication the *Haliburton County Echo* received a total of nine OCNA awards, including a first-place finish for Tiffin in the environmental writing category. Former editor Jenn Watt received four awards, including two first-place finishes, and Darren Lum was named the OCNA's Photographer of the Year.

Staff

My clients and I have decided to delay the start date of the listings below until after the current "Lockdown". We do not wish to create a situation that encourages buyers to travel at this time. Please feel free to contact me for more details on any of these listings.

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Minden woman wins \$500,000 on Plinko

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

A Minden woman has won \$500,000, the top prize, on a Plinko ticket purchased at On the Spot Variety.

Jennifer Smith received the ticket as a gift from her dad. As a press release from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation explains, the game holds a special place for the family.

"He purchased tickets for the whole family because of the connection we had to the game," Smith said in the release. "My husband built a Plinko board game board a few years ago for a Jack and Jill party game."

Smith's ticket included a CHIP win, meaning she got to travel to the OLG prize centre in Toronto and drop a chip into a giant Plinko board, a scene straight out of *The Price is Right*.

"When we went to the store to have it validated, everything became a blur," Smith said. "We were oblivious to what we won."

When Smith dropped the chip into the board, it landed on the biggest prize amount possible – half a million dollars.

"When I dropped the chip, I was unaware of what was happening," she said. "I felt like I wasn't even breathing. When the prize amount was announced, it felt like a dream come true."



Jennifer Smith won the top prize of \$500,000 on a Plinko ticket purchased at On the Spot Variety in Minden. /Photo submitted by OLG

Smith split her winnings with her parents, and intends to put some toward her children's education, as well as some improvements around the house. "My oldest daughter wants new bedroom furniture and my youngest said she wants a surprise," she said. "... This feeling is like nothing I've ex-

perienced before."

In late 2020, another Minden woman won \$100,000 on an Instant Crossword ticket, also purchased at On the Spot Variety.

AH closes recreation facilities, delays opening of tower

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The Township of Algonquin Highlands has closed numerous recreation facilities, is delaying the opening of the Dorset tower property, and has cancelled campsite reservations amid the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and changing directives from the provincial government.

"The township continues to prepare for the opening and operation of municipal facilities and programs however, the changing provincial orders have resulted in disruptions in usual preparations such as the hiring and training of seasonal staff which, in turn, can affect the implementation of annually scheduled work," reads a press release issued by the township April 20. "In order to provide safe and enjoyable experiences for the public, Algonquin Highlands will

open and operate its facilities and programs as soon as it's safe to do so for both the public and staff, not necessarily immediately upon a change in provincial orders."

The Ford government has issued a stay-at-home order in effect until May 20, asking people to only leave their homes for essential purposes, and for those who can work from home to do so.

Algonquin Highlands remains under a state of emergency, and following a meeting of the township's emergency control group last week, the following facilities have been closed: tennis, pickleball and basketball courts; sports fields; picnic tables and pavilions; baseball diamonds; and outdoor fitness equipment.

Council has decided to keep the Dorset tower itself closed to the public this summer, since social distancing and sanitization requirements would be too difficult to maintain on the tower structure. However, the plan had been to open the rest of the property to visitors on May 17, although that is

no longer the case. It is unclear at this point when the tower property will open to guests. "The township's emergency operations control group will continue to review this based on the timelines associated with the stay at home order," the release reads.

Playgrounds remain open, and it's required that individuals who are not part of the same household maintain a minimum distance of two metres from one another at those facilities.

No new campsite reservations are being taken for the township's Haliburton Highlands Water Trails until further notice, and all existing reservations, up to and including May 20, have been cancelled.

Any questions about the township's COVID-19 safety policies can be sent to covid19@algonquinhills.ca. Residents can also call 705-489-2379, ext. 369 to leave a voicemail with questions.

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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council, Committee of the Whole and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference meetings, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

- April 29 – Regular Council Meeting
- May 13 – Committee of the Whole Meeting
- May 13 – Public Meeting Fees and Charges By-law
- May 13 – Public Meeting Procedural By-law

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

WASTE REDUCTION TIP

Take the "freezer challenge"! Find creative recipes on the internet to use up items in your freezer before you go shopping.

SUMMER HOURS AT WASTE SITES

Minden Hills Waste Sites switch to summer hours on May 1st. Go to mindenhills.ca/landfill or ask a waste site attendant for more details.

REQUEST FOR TENDER

Public Works Department RFT #RDS 21-03 for Crushing & Stockpiling of Recycled Asphalt. Submission deadline is May 5, 2021 by 12:00 noon.

Visit www.mindenhills/tenders/ for more information and to download the complete tender document.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding Public Meetings on Thursday, May 13, 2021 during its Meeting of Council via web conference regarding its Fees and Charges By-law and Procedural By-law. More information will be provided on the Township's website at a later date.

Dated this 21st day of April, 2021.
Trisha McKibbin, CAO/Clerk
705-286-1260 ext. 505 • tmckibbin@mindenhills.ca

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This is a full time, union position, based on a thirty-five (35) hour work week, being Monday to Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. The current rate of pay is \$24.60/hour as per LOCAL 4286 Collective Agreement. Earnings will be subject to Union dues.

Please visit: www.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ for full posting details and job description.

How to Apply: Email cover letter and resume to: sprentice@mindenhills.ca by April 30, 2021.

DAYTIME BURNING & FIREWORKS REMINDER

Reminder that you will need a burn permit and a fireworks permit as of April 1st to October 31st

Schmale critical of ‘monstrous’ 2021 federal budget

by MIKE BAKER
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MP Jamie Schmale is concerned by the figures included in the 2021 federal budget, which he has labelled a “super spreader of spending.”

Tabled by Canada’s finance minister Chrystia Freeland last Monday [April 19], the budget, which is the Liberal government’s first in two years, includes an unprecedented \$101.4 billion in new spending over the next three years. That money, Freeland said, will help to support the country through this third wave of COVID-19 and stimulate the economic recovery post-pandemic.

The crown jewel of the mammoth 700-page document is \$30 billion in spending over the next five years, and \$8.3 billion per year after that, to establish and sustain a new national child care program. A further \$17.6 billion has been set aside for “green recovery,” money that will help to conserve 25 per cent of Canada’s lands and oceans by 2025.

Keeping up with the green theme, \$4.4 billion was set aside to help homeowners complete green retrofits on their homes through interest-free loans of up to \$40,000; \$3 billion will be invested over five years to help provinces and territories improve long-term care; \$2.5 billion to build and repair 35,000 housing units for vulnerable Canadians; \$1 billion for the tourism sector to support festivals and cultural events; and \$300 million to support Black and other underrepresented entrepreneurs.

There was just one figure, however, that Schmale wanted to focus on – that being the

federal deficit, which is slated at \$354.2 billion in 2020/21. In total, the federal debt is now in excess of \$1 trillion.

“The unfortunate thing about all of this new spending is that the federal government is effectively putting it on the credit card,” Schmale said. “... By 2026, under the government’s current plan, we’re going to be spending \$39 billion per year on interest payments on our debt. There’s absolutely no planning here – the Liberals are just increasing their spending on the backs of future generations.”

While there has been widespread support, particularly from the public, for the proposed national child care program, Schmale believes the Liberals are creating a substantial problem for future governments, and taxpayers, down the road.

It should be pointed out too that the initiative, as proposed, would require buy-in from all Canadian provinces and territories, with the feds suggesting a 50/50 cost sharing model.

“This national child care program is something that the provinces weren’t asking for. It’s going to require a substantial buy-in, and I’m not sure there is any province in this confederation that is so flush with cash right now that they’d be willing to take on another structural program that will require funding way into the future,” Schmale said. “This program will not accomplish what the government hopes it will, and that’s the unfortunate part.”

Schmale said the federal initiative is being modelled after Quebec’s provincial daycare program, which has a massive waiting list. Only “traditional” daycare facilities will qualify for funding too, Schmale says, with



HKLB MP Jamie Schmale says spending in the 2021 federal budget is out of control. /Photo submitted

“

This national child care program is something that the provinces weren’t asking for.

— JAMIE SCHMALE

”

trying to secure as many doses of COVID-19 vaccine as is possible, and that any excess funds – such as the \$100 million outlined for pandemic relief, which Schmale believes will essentially serve as a government slush fund to do with as they please – should be used solely for vaccine relief.

It isn’t all negative though, Schmale says. He likes that the federal government is extending some of its wage subsidy programs and introducing new hiring credits, while he commended the fact that money has, once again, been set aside to bolster internet and broadband connectivity in rural communities.

That’s particularly important for communities like Haliburton County, Schmale says, particularly right now when more people than ever before are working from home.

Another area of concern, and something that will impact Canadians of all ages, was the government’s inability to address the red-hot housing market. According to the Canadian Real Estate Association [CREA], from February 2020 to February 2021, the national housing market saw a price increase of 25 per cent, with the average cost of a home rising from approximately \$542,000 to \$678,000.

“There’s nothing in the budget, whether it be funding or any kind of plan, to address the housing prices, or try to cool the market,” Schmale said, adding that a bloated housing market makes things more expensive for everyone, with rental rates going up, and cost for goods and services also going up to offset the extra costs associated with home ownership.

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Dr. Natalie Bocking
for an update on COVID-19 and vaccine rollout

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May 18 • 1-2 pm



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www.hkpr.on.ca



Archie Stouffer Elementary School students and siblings Colten Simms, Grade 4, and Landyn, Grade 5 show the trash they collected as part of a neighbourhood clean-up on Earth Day. /Submitted by Angela Pilgrim



Stouffer students look for litter

Archie Stouffer Elementary School students and siblings Spencer Upton, Grade 8, left, Athena Upton, Grade 3 and Lucas, Grade 4, gather with the collected trash after their effort to pick up trash to recognize Earth Day this year on April 22. /Submitted by Angela Pilgrim

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Good jab

LAST WEEK, I donned a mask, and then another one, and then a face shield, and I walked into another building in this county for the first time in 407 days.

I told the nurse who was administering my first dose of COVID-19 vaccine that I might cry, and because I am hilarious, added that it wasn't necessarily a side effect of the shot. But in all honesty, it really was – not for the needle part, because like many others I didn't feel a thing – but for the euphoria in being a part of this particular time in history when a vaccination is available to help us stare down this pandemic, and in being a part of the global collective, co-operative effort to keep others safe.

It was also possibly a touch of giddiness that during the post-shot observation period, I would have 15 minutes to myself for the first time since the Beforetimes while the kids waited in the car with their Dad.

Pity the face shield made the book I had brought along too blurry to read.

To date, in the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit, 64,953 residents have received their first dose of vaccine – almost 40,000 of those in the past month and just over 11,000 in the past week – while 3,548 residents have received their second dose. In Haliburton County specifically, 8,507 people have received their first dose, and 192 people have received both doses.

Much has been said in grief and anger in how the vaccine roll-out has happened, or not, around the world, in Canada, in Ontario, and here at home. We see the lines of people scrambling for pop-up clinics in hotspot areas; we know vulnerable and marginalized populations are not always being prioritized; that global distribution

and vaccine access has not been equitable and that besides caring for our fellow humans, we won't achieve essential herd immunity without about 75 per cent of the population being vaccinated to acquire resistance against COVID-19. We know that locally the lack of supply has closed our mass vaccination clinics this week.

There is much to celebrate, too. This week marks National Immunization Awareness Week in Canada, Vaccination Week in the Americas, and internationally, World Immunization Week.

These awareness events celebrate the life-saving work scientists have done to protect people against infection, and reduce the transmission of disease. We can celebrate that for the most part we haven't had to worry much about diseases that our ancestors lived with and died from. We can celebrate

that a malaria vaccine is showing high-level efficacy, a breakthrough against a disease that kills hundreds of thousands of people a year. We can celebrate that it's been a long 13 months so far, but we have worn masks, distanced or isolated in part to protect our most vulnerable and our essential workers, and we can get the vaccine as soon as we are offered one to continue protecting our community.

Please remember that full vaccination is not in effect until two weeks after a second dose of vaccine and that COVID-19 public health measures should still be implemented even after a second dose. Many, many thanks to the healthcare workers and volunteers and all involved in providing vaccinations in our county. A job well done.



SUE TIFFIN
Reporter

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IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Kwarky



'Noise! People! Traffic! Normal life!'

Expressing myself

I HAVE ALWAYS believed that our society's devotion to freedom of expression is only tested when an unpopular message is communicated. It is easy to permit people to say things we agree with, are indifferent to, or do not find more than slightly offensive. But it is only when we allow people on the fringe to express themselves in ways we find abhorrent and annoying that we truly prove we cherish this inalienable right.

This explains why I have concluded that I do not live in a home where freedom of expression is valued – at least by some. I realized this shortly after Jenn declared martial law and decreed that all turkey calling is abhorrent and annoying. She then proclaimed – unilaterally, mind you – that it would have to be practised outside of the house from here on in.

Of course, I did not take this sitting down. I pointed out that this sort of declaration is likely forbidden by our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. She then conceded that I might have a particularly good legal argument too, but also she uttered what I can only assume is a veiled threat about making a tofu-based meal for dinner every day for the remainder of the turkey season.

This left me with no choice but to capitulate. So, as much as it pains me, I now have to practice my turkey calling outside, whenever Jenn is home – which is essentially all the time.

Clearly, the brave and moral thing to do would be to rise up against this sort of tyranny with peaceful protests, sit ins and prolonged turkey calling sessions.

But, in fairness, when Patrick Henry ut-

tered the immortal words "Give me liberty or give me death" he did not know there were things worse than death – like any meal containing tofu, for instance.

Tofu is the kind of food that makes you want to unionize your stomach so it can go on a hunger strike.

The good news is we live on a street where only one other family currently resides – and a hunter lives in that house too. This means I can strut up and down my road clucking, yelping, purring and cutting like a hen while maintaining my dignity.

Still, having to do this is not fair at all. For turkey calling is, at this time of year, the way I express myself most eloquently.

For instance, when Jenn mentioned tofu, I used my call to make a series of "putt" sounds, which as we all know is the wild turkey's way of indicating that it is feeling panicked and perhaps even a bit frightened. At no point did

I make the soft purr sounds that indicate contentment, however.

The fact that Jenn did not pick up on these very obvious signals this tells me she is simply not listening. Or, even worse, we are in the midst of one of those communication breakdowns that you hear about. Strangely enough, the same thing happened during duck season.

Sadly, a combination of the COVID-19 pandemic and turkey season, probably rule out the possibility of couples counselling. So, if I want to call in the house to practice – and I do – I will have to settle for many meals containing tofu. Rest assured, however, if it comes to this, I will do my best to gobble them down.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Stones of the forest

THREE IS NO greater power on earth than stories. Stories help us to understand the world around us; understanding makes it easier to cope.

There is much to cope with this spring. The sickness, deaths and economic destruction brought by the unrelenting COVID-19 virus are overwhelming. Fires from mass cremations in India can be seen from airplanes flying high above the earth.

Thankfully, there are positive stories to help us cope.



JIM POLING SR.
From Shaman's Rock

There are five species of trillium found in Ontario, where it is the official flower and provincial symbol found on official documents such as driver's licences and health cards. Most trillium flowers are white, but some are red-purple, depending on where you live.

Trillium root was used for centuries as an antiseptic, diuretic and as an aid to menstruation. North American native tribes used trillium root to facilitate child birth and other female issues. It was a sacred female herb spoken about only among female medicine women.

An important part of the trillium's story is that you don't have to be big to be important. It is a tiny plant compared to the colossal oaks, maples and beeches that tower overhead. Yet while the big trees continue to sleep it pushes through the thawing earth to announce renewal of life and hope for the future.

Also, trillium flowers produce fruit – small berries with seeds attached to a nutritious fleshy substance called elaiosome. Ants love the substance and carry it and the seeds off to their nests. They eat the elaiosome and discard the seeds, which germinate and produce more trilliums.

Again, small things doing important stuff.

The trillium's story also is one of patience. Its seeds take two years to germinate and another seven to 10 years to produce the first early spring flower.

Not long after the trilliums begin to bloom something else small but miraculous arrives in the forest. It is the velvet hum of a hummingbird, carrying its amazing story of migration.

Hummingbirds travel thousands of kilometres a year between their summer homes in the northern U.S. and southern Canada and their winter homes as far south as Central America. They fly during daylight when they can see good places to stop for food.

They need a lot of food energy, much of it sugar, for those long trips. They feed five to eight times an hour, licking nectar with their long, forked tongues. Some research shows they lick 10 to 15 times per second.

Everything about hummingbirds seems to be fast. Their little wings flap 15 to 80 times a second and during migration their heart beats up to 1,200 times a minute. Even during rest, a hummingbird takes an average of 250 breaths per minute.

They really have no low energy speed but have so much maneuverability that they can even fly backwards.

All that speedy maneuvering consumes huge amounts of energy. It has been estimated that a person weighing 77 kilograms would have to eat 60 kilos (130 pounds) of bread a day to keep up to the energy output of a hummingbird.

Part of the hummingbird's story is a lie. For years people have spread the myth that ruby-throated hummingbirds ride on the backs of geese and other birds during their migrations across the Gulf of Mexico.

It's a non-stop flight across the Gulf with no place land and rest so someone decided that these tiny birds could not possibly make such a long, arduous journey without hitching a ride.

The fact is that they do make the 800-kilometre flight entirely on their own.

Both the trillium and the hummingbird are positive stories that bring color and joy into our lives at the end of a winter of discontent.

letters to the editor

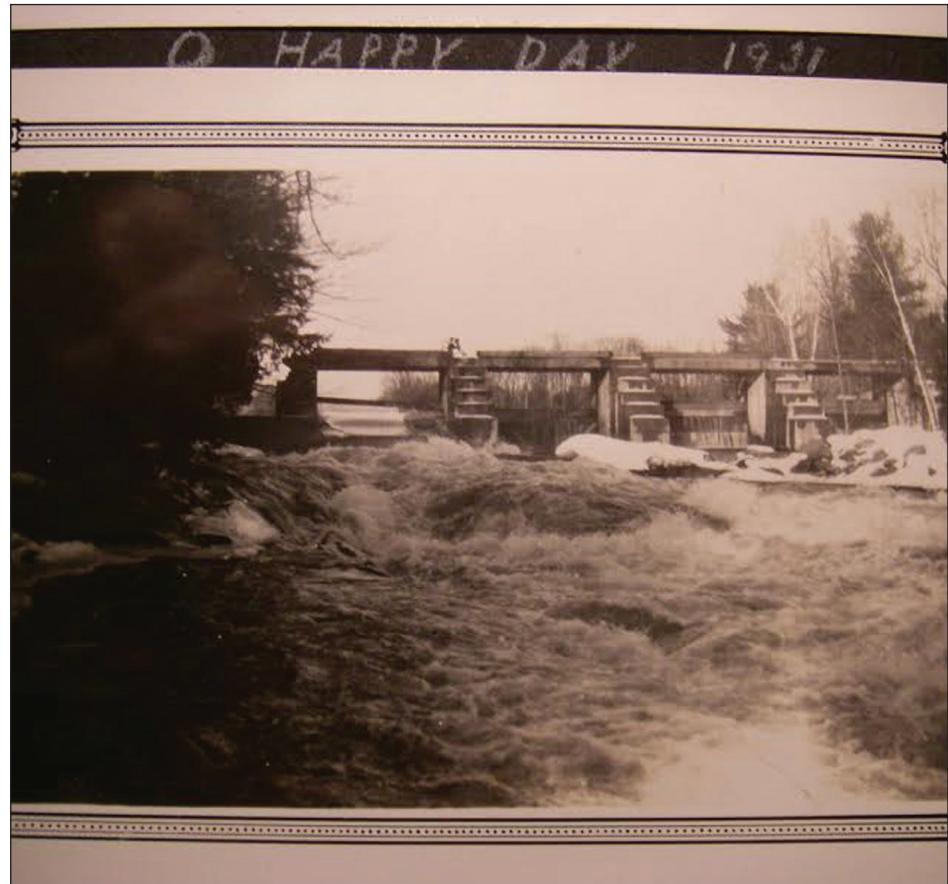
Channeling pain into expression

To the Editor,

Thank you for Darren Lum's excellent story on the Bones of Jim Jones band. Supporting our people – not just our young people – to channel their pain and despair into creative expression is what mental health money should be doing, and

the kinds of stories it should be telling. It positions mental health with other kinds of health, as something that needs tending to, not a life/death sentence. Well done, Darren!

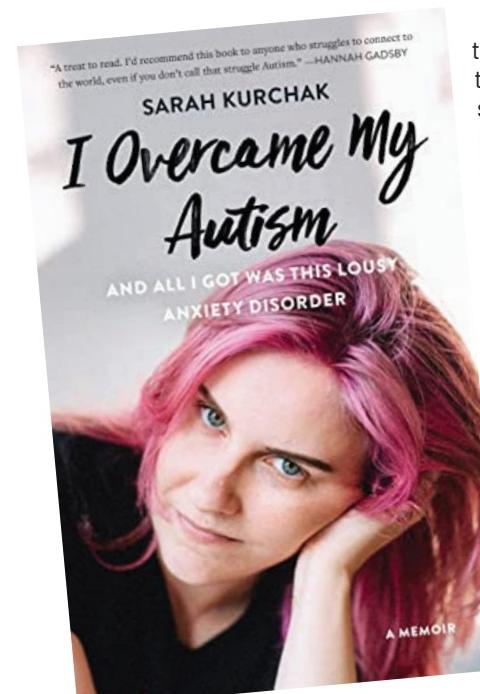
Fay Martin
Minden



Spring freshet, 1931

John Gibb submitted this photo showing the spring melt at the Horeshoe Lake Dam 90 years ago.

HCPL's Book of the Month - May



Sarah Kurchak is autistic. She hasn't let that get in the way of pursuing her dream to become a writer, or to find love, but she has let it get in the way of being in the same room with someone chewing food loudly, and of cleaning her bathroom sink. In *I Overcame My Autism and All I Got Was This Lousy Anxiety Disorder*, Kurchak examines the Byzantine steps she took to become "an autistic success story," how the process almost ruined her life, and how she is now trying to recover.

Tackling everything from autism parenting culture to love, sex, alcohol, obsessions and professional pillow fighting, Kurchak's enlightening memoir challenges stereotypes and preconceptions about autism and considers what might really make the lives of autistic people healthier, happier and more fulfilling. This evergreen nominee, as well as many other resources on mental health and wellness, are available in the nonfiction section of Haliburton County Public Library.

Minden's OHL prospect sees bigger picture after season cancelled

ASES alum and current HHSS student eyeing next season

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

A Minden teen is focusing on what he has after learning about the end to the Ontario Hockey League season.

Drafted by the OHL's North Bay Battalion as its 41st overall pick in the 2018-2019 draft, Alex Little had aspirations to make the team with a strong training camp.

Earlier this month the league had reached an agreement with the province for a return-to-play plan, but with the provincial stay-at-home order and rising COVID-19 cases the season was cancelled, leaving players like Little disappointed.

However, despite how COVID-19 changed the trajectory for success, it provided the Archie Stouffer Elementary School alumnus with a perspective about what really matters.

"We have to appreciate what we have because my family is all healthy around me. I get to be with them now that I'm back home," he said. "That's a big thing because a lot of people had some tragedies throughout this so losing hockey for year, yeah, it's not ideal. I love the sport and I would have liked to be able to play, but looking at the bigger picture in life and still have everybody around me. Being able to be healthy and I can still train, play sports, get outside. I mean all in all it's not as bad as it could have been," he said.

The teen said he returned in the new year to live with his family in Minden and is currently enrolled at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, taking a virtual course.

Little had been living in North Bay with a billet family for the end of the year and was attending a local school there, and training in



OHL prospect and past Red Hawks player Alex Little was disappointed about not getting the opportunity to earn a roster spot with the North Bay Battalion with the cancellation of the season, but said he was grateful for how he and his family have all remained healthy during the pandemic. Little, who was drafted by the Battalion, is looking to next season to make the team. /FILE photo

his spare time with a belief that if restrictions lifted he would still get his opportunity.

He said he learned about the cancellation of the season last Friday when everyone else did.

"I got an email from the commissioner of the league and he was the one that broke, saying he was sorry, but the season won't be going this year," he said, referring to commissioner David Branch.

When the season was delayed initially, Little saw it as an opportunity to improve.

It gave him motivation to stay in shape and

to improve his fitness in terms of strength, agility and footwork. This would put him in a position to seize any opportunities to make the team roster, if a season went ahead.

He said this was owed to how there was "lot of talk" about players from outside the country, who may not have been permitted to play in the league from travel restrictions related to the pandemic. He believed a third of players that would have typically played in the league are imports from outside Canada.

"That opened up a door for me and it kind of got my motivation up because it made my chances of making the team a lot higher," he said.

The 18-year-old has been trained the past two years by A.P.E. Training, which is

owned by HHSS alum Owen Flood.

With the time Little has had since the season ended, he's been working on gaining weight and strength to be able to compete with other OHL players, who are bigger and stronger, Little said.

"As the summer goes on I'll put in more work [with] footwork, speed and agility. That kind of stuff," he said.

From the first quarantine, Little had put on close to a dozen pounds and was 155 pounds. He is now close to 165 pounds with added muscle mass and a slight growth of a few inches in height.

Little, who said he did his best to follow COVID-19 protocols, admitted there was concern about contracting the virus as a high performance athlete.

"If I ever got it, that was a scary thought to have, say your lung capacity shortened from COVID because skating, running and just doing exercise it makes you breathe heavy. Not being able to do that would definitely put a damper on your ability to play at a high level," he said.

Unlike players on the team roster, who were expecting to play in hub cities, if the expected shortened season was to go ahead, Little was in a unique position as a prospect.

He needed the training camp to showcase his skills against OHL players, so he could impress the coaching staff and earn a spot on the roster.

"Without the season happening, I lost even the opportunity to say, go play in a hub city or even just be part of the team in a regular season," he said.

The team, he said, owns his rights for two years, so he'll look to the future for his shot.

"Next year, depending on what happens with COVID here, they most likely will have another camp and that will be my opportunity to try and make it," he said.



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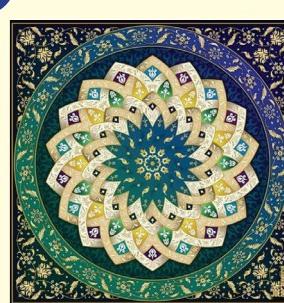
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Sullivan signs off as library CEO

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

“

I have loved working with the wonderful staff at the library.

— BESSIE SULLIVAN

”

After a dozen years at the helm of the Haliburton County Public Library, CEO Bessie Sullivan has tendered her resignation, which will take effect at the end of May.

“Twelve years at the Haliburton County Public Library has been rewarding,” Sullivan said in a prepared statement. “I believe that an organization can only thrive with a leader for so long and then it is time for a change. Due to COVID-19 and some health issues, I have been prompted to make that change. I have loved working with the wonderful staff at the library. People who are deeply committed to their communities by providing safe spaces where library users could further their quest for knowledge through learning technology and information seeking. Past members of the library board have worked hard to understand the legislation, their role in governance, and the challenges facing public libraries today. Some I have had the pleasure of working with for many years and the growth of the library is a culmination of their work, an engaged staff, and an interested public. Although I am sad to be leaving, I am looking forward to some new challenges.”

Sullivan was instrumental in modernizing the county’s library system, introducing a swath of technological and digital improvements.

“Modern librarianship is a field of rapid change, where issues of democracy, the public good, diversity, and intellectual freedom challenge and stretch our knowledge and worldview,” Erin Kernohan-Berning, branch services librarian, told the Echo. “Lifelong learning is mandatory in the profession, and having mentors to foster that learning is important. I am grateful to have had Bessie as a mentor as we’ve grappled with some of these larger is-

sues in our small corner of the world.”

In a press release, Sally Howson, chair of the library board, said the board was accepting Sullivan’s resignation with regret.

“Bessie has transitioned Haliburton County’s library services into an enviable and well-respected system that serves many people in a range of needs and interests,” the release reads. “Under her leadership HCPL won several awards, some of these include: the Angus Mowat Award of Excellence (2012) for the Celebrity Readers Program; the Ontario Public Library Association Leadership in Adult Readers Advisory Award (2015); and the Ontario Public Library Association New Library Building Award (2016) for the Wilberforce branch of the HCPL.”

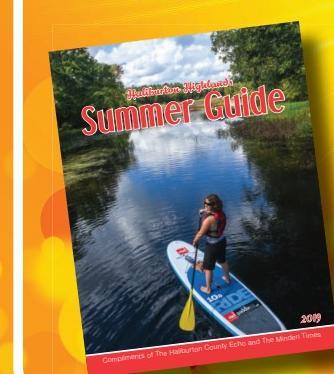
“The board and staff wish Bessie all the best in her future endeavours and thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and its library services.”

Anna Babluk is currently the acting library CEO, as Sullivan has been on a leave.

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The Times
MINDEN ONTARIO



Saving Grace and researching roads to help area turtles

by SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The first time Leora Berman was called to rescue Grace, one of Haliburton County's oldest snapping turtles, was last year toward the end of the summer. Grace was crossing the street in front of the high school, and in doing so was also holding up a line of school buses.

It took two people at that time to lift Grace, who is estimated to weigh more than 25 pounds. Using a makeshift sling, they carried the ancient turtle to Head Lake, in case she might be ready to hibernate.

A week later, Berman, who founded The Land Between conservation organization and the Turtle Guardians program, met Grace again.

"Someone called us a week later, in the evening, to say they had spotted Grace," said Berman. "I went out that night because she's such a precious one, because of her age."

According to research on the aging of turtles, it is likely based on Grace's size of 39 centimetres that she is more than 125 years old, possibly anywhere up to 200 years old.

Using a "pizza hold method," in which the turtle is approached from behind, and anchored and stabilized with one hand at the base of the tail while the other hand is held flat under the belly, Berman laid Grace in a wheelbarrow to help move the heavy elder safely. It's important to never pick up a turtle by the tail which could risk damage to its spine, and also to be mindful of a snapping turtle's defence in response to fear.

"A snapping turtle in the wild will snap when they're feeling threatened on land," said Berman. "They rarely ever snap in the

water unless they've been fed by someone fishing in the same spot all the time. They don't snap, usually, out of defence in water - it would be in mistaking something for food. On land they tend to be pretty afraid, and a big turtle who is projecting a snap at that rate is pretty hard to maneuver."

Grace, after her wheelbarrow transfer, walked right into the wetland.

"It was pretty clear when we reached one part of the wetland that that's exactly where she wanted to be because she just started to walk into the wetland and looked very comfortable," said Berman.

Grace is making good use of an area busy with humans and car traffic. Her hibernation site is likely the wetlands near the high school, and her feeding grounds include Head Lake and Kashagawigamog Lake.

"Turtles know exactly where they're going, and they recognize their entire territories," said Berman. "Their navigation systems are just incredible and extremely mysterious. They could use the sun to navigate, plus the earth's magnetism because of magnetites in their brains and/or different chemicals in their eyes that allows them to see earth's magnetism, or they could be using all three of these tools, but they know exactly where they are."

Grace has been spotted on Highway 118, on Gelert Road, near the hospital, on Highland Street and on Highway 121, causing the Turtle Guardians program to act quickly in alerting the public to her whereabouts through their social media page, in an attempt to alert drivers of her path – and the paths of other turtles as they cross roads throughout the county, and prevent continued road mortality of the animals. Turtles

see TURTLE page 12



Leora Berman (pictured) recently worked with Monika Melichar at Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary to help repair a devastating injury to a Blanding's turtle. Berman is reminding the public, through the Turtle Guardians program, to be mindful of the essential animals as they cross roads throughout the county./Photo courtesy of Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary

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Turtle Guardians collaborate to protect shelled friends



Grace the turtle has been spotted in an area that includes Kashagawigamog Lake, Head Lake, Highways 118 and 121 and Gelert Road. She's likely more than 125 years old and plays a vital role in maintaining the local ecosystem. /Photo from Turtle Guardians Facebook page

from page 12

make use of dedicated territories they have memorized as hatchlings, imprinting hibernation sites, seeding sites and mating areas, crossing roads in the same areas and often returning to the same hibernation site within one metre of the year before.

"Grace is named for the absolute miracle of her longevity and existence without significant injury or death in this busy area of roads and boats," reads the Turtle Guardians web site. "We have posted alerts to community members-at-large to watch for Grace on roads and notify us of any sightings. Grace needs to stay in her territory to survive and thrive and she needs our help. But Grace is like many other turtles - ancient, resilient and at the same time very vulnerable."

This spring, Berman said turtles have been reported on roads three weeks earlier than usual. The social media post about Grace and turtles crossing has reached 67,000 people.

"I mean, it's pretty neat to see people rally behind this, because that's exactly what we need in order to save this species."

It is possible to experience local extinctions of turtles, said Berman, who noted that the pandemic did not slow the rate of turtle deaths on Haliburton County's roads - "we're just losing way too many."

"Turtles, because they're slow-moving, they're slow to do everything, they're slow to reproduce, they're slow to replace themselves in nature, and yet, they're essential for our health and well-being," said Berman. "Without turtles in the environment, we rely on nature. People have forgotten that without intact ecosystems we have very little hope of survival on this planet ... Turtles, exactly as the Indigenous teachings go, a turtle holds most of the animals and earth on its back. Because a turtle is responsible for supporting about 70 per cent of Ontario's fish and wildlife."

Young turtles scour lakes for protein, and help keep lakes free of pathogens by eating dead animals. As they age, they need less protein and more minerals, which they get through seed matter and vegetation - they're beneficial in cycling nutrients, and spread seeds as they defecate in the territory they walk through, helping to grow new fish nurseries and moose habitats, ensuring the health of wetlands that Ontario's wildlife use.

Elder females of the turtle population are most important, as the older a turtle is, the more fecund it is - the more eggs she lays. Without these "mother turtles," Berman said there would be little hope of replacing lost populations, with the loss of what she said is

50 per cent of the turtle population in Ontario already.

"Turtles are not at all like rodents," said Berman. "They're very slow to reproduce. They take up to an average of 60 years to replace themselves in nature, so they're pretty precious creatures."

Though some people deliberately kill turtles, said Berman, most people understand that turtles are valuable. The program she launched - Turtle Guardians - forms a collaboration between at least 10 other organizations, enabling research over a stretch of land for a long time, and supporting groups in sharing data and information and capacity.

"Turtles are also one of the most imperilled species in the world, and knowing that it takes so long to recruit them and there were so many threats, increasing threats, especially up here with the increasing road traffic, the decreasing natural vegetation around shores, I knew the threats to turtles were mounting and so I kind of figured for turtles to be saved, we needed one human for every turtle to help. We needed every person to be a turtle hero."

Volunteer programs through Turtle Guardians include Nest Sitters, Wetland Watchers, Tunnel Assessors and Road Researchers and offer a variety of ways for people to get involved depending on where they live, and what their interests and available time are. A new volunteer program, Turtle Crossing Guards, is deemed an essential service by provincial government regulations, and able to run during the pandemic, with safety precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in place. Alternatively, for those who can donate financial support rather than time, a GoFundMe has been set up to help pay for high-visibility vests, signage that alerts drivers to known turtle crossing paths which has been arranged in partnership with the Haliburton County roads department, silt fencing, and magnets for cars of those doing research from the road, to help other drivers know they are slow-moving. At press time, \$2,400 of a \$4,000 goal had been raised.

To help donate to the Turtle Guardians program, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/turtle-guardians-saving-grace-safe-crossing>. To volunteer, get involved or for more information on Turtle Guardians, visit <http://www.turtleguardians.com>.

If you spot an injured turtle, record its exact location, place it in a dry, warm ventilated container and call your nearest rehabilitation centre. In Haliburton County, call Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary at 705-286-1173, or for severe injury in any area call the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre at 705-741-5000.

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5	9							
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			5			9		

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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 15

County	COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County						
	Current Cases Not Resolved	Current Probable Cases	Confirmed Cases (Total to date)	Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to date)	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Confirmed Deaths (Total to date)	
Haliburton	6	0	98	91	3	1	0
Kawartha Lakes	33	0	707	631	33	43	13
Northumberland	46	5	806	746	21	14	0
Total	85	5	1,611	1,468	57	58	13

Six local unresolved cases of COVID-19

No new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Haliburton County on April 27 by the local health unit, while three new cases were reported in City of Kawartha Lakes, and nine new cases were reported in Northumberland County. To date, 18 local cases of COVID-19 have screened positive as variants of interest. A workplace outbreak was declared at Summersweet Custom Design & Build Inc. on April 23. /Screenshot from the HKPRDHU website

Zygoptera aiming to be ‘environmental voice’ for Haliburton County

by MIKE BAKER
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

While their company name may translate directly as damselfly, the trio of women who have recently come together to form Zygoptera Consulting are anything but your stereotypical damsels in distress.

Launching a new business during a global pandemic is a bold move, but for Katie Paroschy, Carmen Pereira and Sarah Sinclair it seemed the opportune time to turn their collective dream into a reality.

After meeting at the Dorset Environmental Science Centre several years ago, and quickly becoming friends, the three women harboured hopes of one day going into business for themselves – combining their individual specialties in biology and ecology to create something they could call their own.

“We would have these little talks, and these conversations while we were working and doing our various jobs. While working in Dorset, we kind of came together in the biology labs doing benthic assessments – basically studies of insects that live on the bottom of lakes. That’s how we came up with the name Zygoptera – it’s the scientific name for a damselfly, which is a popular benthic insect,” Paroschy said.

She added, “Since our time in Dorset, we’ve gone on different paths but we’ve all found ourselves either underemployed, or unemployed for various reasons due to the pandemic and government cutbacks, so instead of drifting further from what we love to do, which is protecting the environment, helping our communities and working with great people, we thought we’d try our hand at business and incorporate all of our skills under one umbrella.”

Those skills are far-reaching. Serving the Haliburton, Parry Sound, Muskoka and Simcoe County regions, Zygoptera Consulting offers a variety of services “to help people and organizations get their projects done,” as Paroschy states.

The trio are capable of carrying out extensive environmental assessments, lake studies, wildlife surveys, taxonomic identification, shoreline and property naturalization, auditing, project analysis and peer review for anything in the environmental field. Paroschy says the company can also help individuals with residential and small commercial development land permit assessments.

“I come from a planning background, so if anyone wants to put an addition on a house, or build a deck and they don’t want to go through the paperwork themselves, we can do that for them,” Paroschy said. “We also do aquatic and insect research, limnology – which is the study of fishes in lakes.”

Pereira is currently completing her PhD on the study of algae, while Sinclair is one of the leading biologists in Ontario when it comes to benthic assessments. Benthic assessments, Pereira says, can give a really good reading on water quality



From left, Katie Paroschy, Sarah Sinclair and Carmen Pereira have come together to form the environmental consulting firm Zygoptera Consulting, after spending years working together at the Dorset Environment Science Centre. /SUBMITTED

in a lake.

“It’s probably one of the best and most inexpensive ways of assessing water quality,” Pereira said.

Given the controversy surrounding the County of Haliburton’s review of its shoreline preservation bylaw, Paroschy says that’s one of the areas Zygoptera will be focusing on assisting with and providing more information on over the coming months.

“There are lots of construction companies and landscape companies that are worried about permitting, and I’m sure many are thinking ‘oh my gosh, there’s now going to be another layer to this’, so we’re hoping to offer our services to assist with, or complete that work for them,” Paroschy said.

While the team are excited to finally get their new venture off the ground, they expect it will be something of a slow burner as they seek to establish themselves in the community.

There’s clear excitement in their voices as the three women take turns speaking about the business and their goals for the future.

“We really want to be involved in our community, and really help better the environment in our community in any way that we can. That’s one of our core goals,” Paroschy said. “We would really like to be community voices in any way that we can, and educate people about the importance of our

local environment in Haliburton and Muskoka.”

For more information, visit www.zygoptera.ca.

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Farewell to the Fishers

A long parade of cars made its way down Invergordon Avenue on the afternoon of April 25, with friends bidding farewell to Bruce and Judy Fisher, who for several years have volunteered time with numerous local organizations, including but not limited to the Haliburton Red Wolves, the Minden food bank and the Minden Curling Club. The Fishers are moving away from the community. /CHAD INGRAM Staff



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2	7	3	4	6	9	1	8	5
6	5	9	8	7	1	4	3	2
4	1	8	3	5	2	9	7	6
1	3	5	9	2	4	8	6	7
8	9	4	6	3	7	2	5	1
7	2	6	5	1	8	3	9	4
9	4	2	7	8	6	5	1	3
5	6	1	2	9	3	7	4	8
3	8	7	1	4	5	6	2	9

Community Events

Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library

Our first virtual Friends Cafe featuring local author Marie Gage

When: Wednesday, Apr. 28, at 1 p.m.

Where: Register today at <http://bit.ly/Friends-Café-with-Marie-Gage>

Format: There will be a 20 to 30 minute author presentation followed by a short Q & A. This is a free event but donations, in support of our library system, will be gratefully accepted during the program.

If you have any event questions, please contact Rozanne Hynard at 705-286-1071

For registration assistance, please contact Jennifer Hughey at 705-854-1205

Environment Haliburton! Enviro-Cafe

When: Tuesday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.

Where: via Zoom: please go to www.environmenthaliburton.org to register

What: Presentation: "My Shoreline, Our Lake" which will talk

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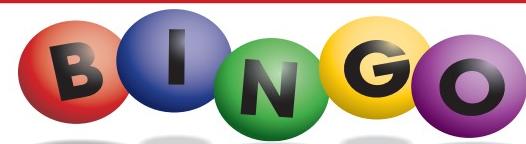
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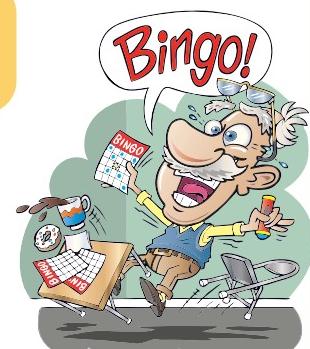
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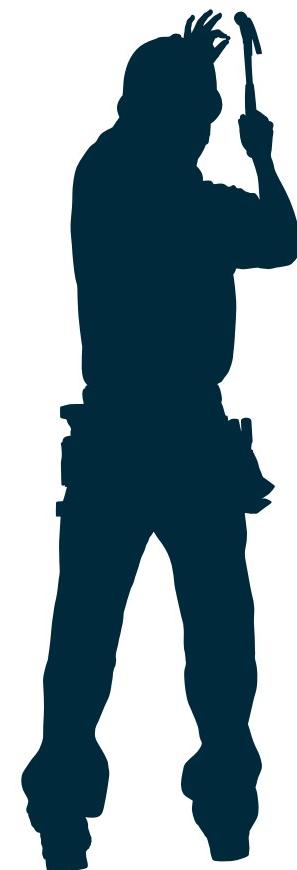
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The successful candidate must have excellent organizational skills and be able to work in a fast paced environment. Active membership with RPNAO is mandatory. Previous experience working in a primary care medical clinic will be considered an asset.

The Haliburton Family Medical Centre and Minden Medical Centre are seeking a **temporary full-time Team Support (receptionist)**. The term of the contract will be six (6) months.

The successful candidate must have excellent organizational skills and be able to work in a fast paced environment. Previous experience in the Health or Business Administration field will be considered an asset.

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Passed away after battling a lifetime of addictions on Thursday, April 22, 2021, at the age of 40.

Adam leaves behind his two sons Logan and Lucas who he adored and spoke about often, though he chose to make the difficult decision to step away from their lives almost 3 years ago, he did so to spare them a potential future of addictions and left them in the loving care of their mother Amanda and step-father Brent. Adored son of Tom and Joann Burke. Loving brother of Talitha and her children Kayle, Morgan (deceased), Joanna, Malia. Chosen brother to Earl and his sister Karen (Rodger) and chosen uncle to Georgia and Ava. Fondly remembered by his special friend Glenda and by his aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.

A Private Family Service will be held at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Road, P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 1:30 pm to join in the service through the zoom link on our webpage.

In Adam's Memory the family ask that you be kind, don't be quick to judge and lend a helping hand to someone in need.



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LOOK INSIDE



Quit staring!

Here's looking at you kid: photographer Lyn Winan's portrait of a Great Gray.
See page 15



Wine, art & thou

Linda McLean's music joined with poetry, art and wine in Dorset.
See page 19



A two-fer

The museum's heritage garden will teach kids and stock the local food bank.
See page 3

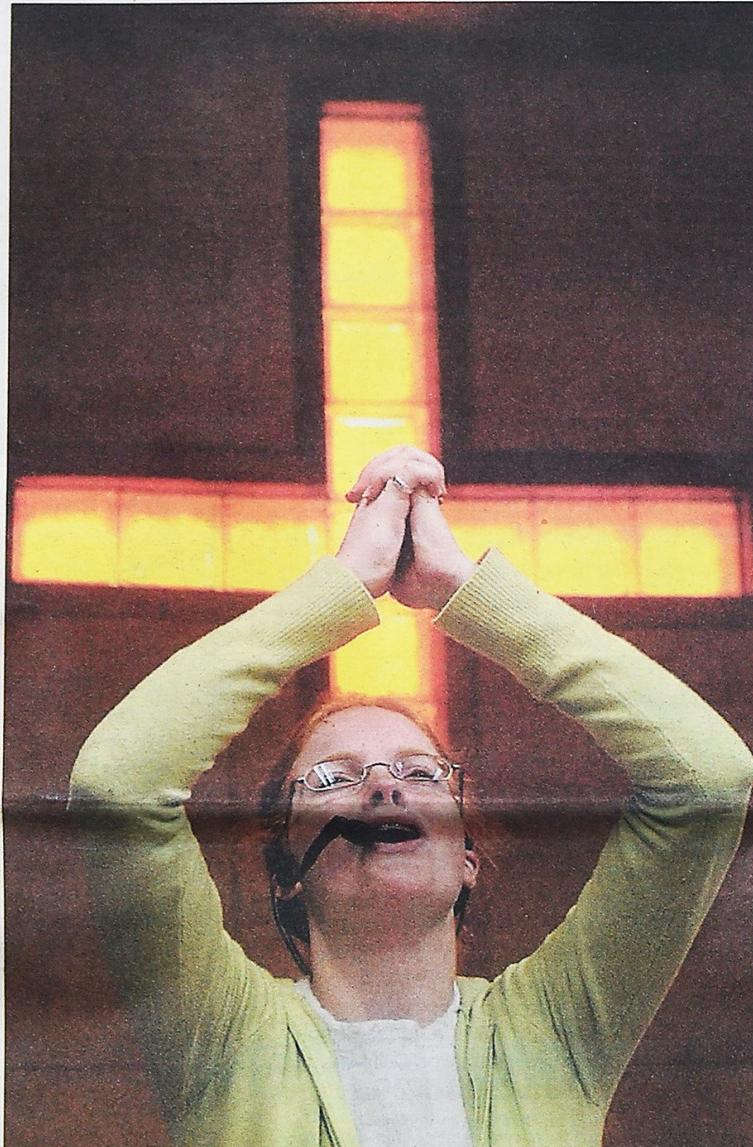


Gimme a hug

It's been a long road but the Dorset seniors housing project is well on its way.
See page 4

In Quotes

"We all are letting go on some level at some time and nothing is more vital than being present for our children and loved ones in the 'now.'" Elke Zilla, see page 9



Soul music

Melissa Guyatt gestures to the ceiling during her performance with brother David, both from the Lost but Found band, at the 28th annual Friendship Tea hosted by the United Church Women at the Zion United Church in Carnarvon on Wednesday afternoon. The event help raise \$275 for the SIRCH Haliburton Community Hospice Program. The Guyatts were assisted by sister Leanne and friend Daniel Roberts. (Photo, Darren Lum.)

Expect to pay more local taxes

Province gives County less; property owners will pay more

by GRAEME STEMP
Times staff

If the new funding for municipal governments seems a little confusing that's because it is.

"I now understand what the funding means," confirms Laura Janke, Treasurer for Haliburton County, "but I work with these numbers all day every day."

Once you cut through the complex government language, it means that taxpayers will be paying more property taxes over time, despite local governments' efforts to stop that.

"The provincial government's phasing out a grant to help pay for services they dropped on us [through downloading]. By 2008, the county will be receiving more than \$1 million less than in 2005," said Janke.

Adding to the confusion, the provincial government shifted the funding in their new Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund from county to municipality. That means counties will receive less funding while some municipalities receive much more.

Haliburton County will receive almost \$4 million in provincial funding in 2005, to go towards the total cost of providing the county's services, which total \$8.74 million. But just one year later, the province will be giving almost \$700,000 less.

"Municipalities may end up paying for some county costs, or we may have to borrow money, or the provincial government may address our needs in their upcoming budget – we just don't know yet," says Janke.

For the average taxpayer, that uncertainty may be costly. In Haliburton, a residential house worth \$100,000 paid \$209 in property taxes for county services last year. In 2005, with the current money from the province, that same residence will have to pay \$226 in property tax.

Janke says the county doesn't like the increase "but the province is giving us less money and our roads, ambulances and social housing are not getting cheaper."

Bring on an election, MP Devolin says

Local MP Barry Devolin says he is unimpressed by the deal between the federal Liberals and the NDP.

"My leader has said that he'll ask Conservative MPs to defeat the government at its first opportunity – and that may come as early as Tuesday," Devolin said in a press

release issued on Thursday. "This is not how Parliament should work, and as soon as our members get back to Ottawa one of the first topics of discussion will be how we can defeat this corrupt Liberal government that will do anything to cling to power."

At Wednesday's county council meeting,

local politicians passed a motion asking the Conservatives to hold off on forcing an election until after the federal budget is passed into law. They are relying on income from a new gasoline tax incentive that was included in the budget. If the government falls, the

see DEVOLIN'S page 2

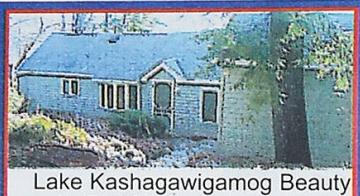
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SOLD			Kennisis Lake \$1,699,000			Beech River \$699,000			NEW LISTING		
Ski Hill Chalet \$1,195,500	• Apprx 152 Ft Rd Frtg, 1.05 Acres • 1727 Sq Ft, 3 Bdm, 2 x 4 pc Bath • 1120 SqFt Heated Grg • Direct Sir Sam's Ski Hill Access	Kennisis Lake \$1,699,000	• Turn-key 2,700 SF waterfront home • Open concept, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths • 200+ FT on peaceful Paddy's Bay • Premium Lake boating on Kennisis	Beech River \$699,000	• Riverfront home in a lovely setting • Nicely updated 3 bedroom, 2 bath • Two finished levels of living space • Good swimming, boat into Beech Lake	Minden Home \$299,000	• Affordable home, full of potential • Ideal as a starter home or for a family • 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, 1 car garage • Walking distance to Minden				
SOLD			NEW LISTING			Minnicock Lake Rd \$159,000			Sir Sam's Ski Area lot \$99,000		
Mink Rd.	• Approx 1 acre, nicely forested, good privacy • Close to public access to Long/Miskwabi Lake • Year-round Municipal Road access • Minutes to Haliburton Village	Minden Home \$199,000	• 2 bedroom home close to town. • New Fap furnace, roof reshingled 3 yrs ago. • Easy access needs some TLC.	Minnicock Lake Rd \$159,000	• 10 acres, nicely treed on yr round road, • only 10 minutes from Haliburton	Sir Sam's Ski Area lot \$99,000	• 2.2 acre lot, quiet country get-away • Walking trails, creek, wildlife • Seasonal road, off-grid				
NEW LISTING			SOLD			NEW LISTING			NEW LISTING		
South Lake \$699,000	• 4 bdrm, furnished, yr round • Cabana, Bunkie, deck lakeside • 152 ft sandy shoreline, 1.22 acres	Stanhope Airport Rd \$349,000	• 2 bedroom, 3 bath, 1215 sf • Perfect starter or retirement home • Many upgrades, low maintenance • Central location, close to lake access	Wilberforce \$379,000	• 3 bedroom home • Private but yet walk to all amenities • Level lot with double car garage	Long Lake Chalet \$899,000	• 4 season • Completely furnished • 2 lake chain (6 km)				
NEW LISTING			NEW LISTING			SOLD			NEW LISTING		
Lt Glamor Lake \$349,000	• 189 FT frontage • Shallow bay, ideal for canoe/kayak • Crown Land borders north side • Cottage needs repair	Minden Area Lot \$93,500	• 1.2 acres, 260 ft frontage • 5 minutes to Minden, hardwood trees • Close to Drag River access & many lakes	Little Cameron Lake \$925,000	• Spectacular views from 14' wall of windows • 182' waterfront • Full walkout basement	Wilberforce \$599,000	• Picture perfect home with pool & hot tub • 9 acres with trails.				
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